It has been decided by Government of India to constitute a "Committee on State Agrarian Relations and the Unfinished Task in Land Reforms" under the Chairmanship of Minister for Rural Development and a "National Council for Land Reforms" under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister. The composition, terms of reference etc. of the Committee and the Council are being finalized.

Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Programme in U.P. and Uttarakhand

991. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is running a Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (RWSS) Programme in States like Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand since the last decade, or so;

(b) if so, how many villages have successfully been covered under this scheme so far;

(c) whether the villagers and rural based NGOs are actively involved in the planning, construction and operation of their water delivery system; and

(d) whether Government will cover far-flung villages in tribal and backward districts in other States like Vidarbha region of Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) Government of India has two Centrally Sponsored Schemes, namely Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and Central Rural Sanitation Programme (CRSP) to supplement the efforts of the State Government for providing water supply and sanitation services in rural areas. Each State Government, including Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, is competent to plan, sanction, implement and execute rural water supply and sanitation schemes from the funds provided under ARWSP and CRSP.

(b) As on 1.4.2007, as per ARWSP norms for coverage there are 2, 57,385 Fully Covered (FC) and 1,722 Partially Covered (PC) habitations in Uttar Pradesh. In Uttarakhand, there are 12,852 FC and 5,077 PC habitations in the State. All 70 districts in Uttar Pradesh and 13 districts in Uttarakhand have been covered under Total Sanitation Campaign.

(c) Since the State Government are empowered to plan sanction, execute and implement the water supply schemes, the involvement of villagers and rural based NGOs in the planning, construction and operation of their water delivery systems has been left to the State Governments to decide. TSC guidelines permit engagement of NGOs and Voluntary Organizations in TSC projects for various activities. However, their engagement is decided by the respective project implementing agencies in the States.

(d) Drinking Water supply is one of the six components of Bharat Nirman which has been conceived as a plan to be implemented in four years, from 2005-06 to 2008-09 for building rural infrastructure in all parts of the country under which all uncovered and slipped-back habitations are to be covered and water quality problem is to be addressed.

Wasteland Development Programme in Maharashtra

992. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that wasteland Development Programme is being implemented by Government for non-forest wasteland development;

(b) If so, details thereof;

(c) The wasteland developed so far in the State of Maharashtra and proposed to be done by 2008-09; and

(d) The wasteland developed in different States and Union Territories till 31st March, 2007 and targets fixed for 2007-08?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP) has been under implementation since 1989-90 to improve productivity of non-forest wastelands. At present the programme is being implemented in 470 districts of the country on a watershed basis. It is a Centrally Sponsored Programme and the present cost norms is Rs. 6000/-per hectare. The cost is shared in the ratio of 11:1 between the Central Government and the State Governments. The funds are released in five installments directly to District Panchayats/District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs). The projects are implemented by Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)/line departments Government Institutions/Universities/NGOs with involvement of local people from planning to implementing stages under overall supervision of the Zilla Parishad (ZPs)/ District Rural Development Agency (DRDAs). So far 11320 hectare wasteland has been developed under IWDP in Maharashtra. An area of 12,96,286 hectares wasteland has been developed in different States and Union Territories under the programme upto 31.03.07. Being a demand driven scheme, state-wise physical and financial targets are not fixed under IWDP. However it is proposed to cover an area of 21 lakh hectares during 2007-08.

People living below poverty line in Haryana

†993. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present definition of poverty line in the country;

(b) the total number of people living below poverty line at present in Haryana and what is its district-wise percentage in the total population of the State; and

(c) whether Government proposes to increase or decrease the present levels of the poverty line parameter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) The poverty line adopted by the Planning Commission is defined as per capita consumption of Rs. 49.09 per month in rural areas and Rs. 56.64 per month in urban areas at 1973-74 prices at national level. These correspond to a basket of goods and services anchored on a norms of per capita daily calorie requirement of 2400 kcal in rural areas and 2100 kcal in urban areas. The national level rural and urban poverty lines (in 1973-74) are disaggregated into state-specific poverty lines using state-specific price indices and inter-state price differentials. These state-specific poverty line of 1973-74 are updated for the later years using state-specific Consumer Price Index of Agricultural Labourers (CAPIAL) in the rural areas and Consumer Price Index of Industrial Workers (CPIIW) in the urban areas following the methodology contained in the report of the Expert Group of 'Estimation of Proportation and Number of Poor'. The national poverty lines in later years are worked out as an interpolated value from the national level consumption distribution obtained from the NSS consumer expenditure data and the national level poverty ratio. The national level poverty ratio is estimated as an average of state-wise proverty ratios. The estimate of national level poverty line, therefore, is implicit.

(b) The latest estimates of the incidence of poverty is available for the year 2004-05, based on the large sample survey on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) in its NSS 61st Round (July, 2004-June, 2005). According to the estimates based on this survey, the total number of persons living below the poverty line in Haryana is 32.1 lakh during 2004-05.District-wise estimates of poverty are not available.

(c) No, Sir, There is no such proposal at the movement.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.